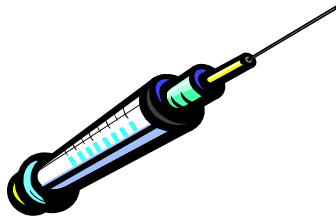


# Flu Vaccine Shortage



**Flu clinics at Long Beach parks & senior centers have been cancelled.**

**Flu vaccine will not be available at the Health Department this year.**

Flu can be life-threatening for some people but it is not usually a serious disease for healthy people under age 65 years. Due to a nationwide shortage of vaccine for the 2004-05 flu season the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Long Beach Health Department are asking that providers who have flu vaccine give priority to the following people:

All categories below are considered to be equally high-risk:

- Adults age 65 years and older
- Children ages 6 months - 23 months of age
- Children and adults between the ages of 2 years and 64 years who have chronic health conditions such as heart, kidney or lung disease, asthma, diabetes or weakened immune systems.
- Children age 6 months to 18 years who are on long-term aspirin therapy
- Women who will be pregnant during flu season
- Residents of skilled nursing facilities and other long-term care facilities housing persons with chronic medical conditions
- Out-of-home care givers and household contacts to children under age 6 months
- Health care providers giving direct patient care

People who are not in one of the above high-risk categories are being asked to defer or forgo flu vaccine so that the limited supply can be made available for those who need it most.

Many private providers; including chain and independent pharmacies will offer flu vaccine this year. Many of these locations are listed at [www.findaflushot.com](http://www.findaflushot.com). Flu vaccine is covered by MediCare.

The Long Beach Health Department will provide recorded updates at 562-570-SHOT and on its website, [www.longbeach.gov/health](http://www.longbeach.gov/health).

Thank you for your cooperation.